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Biden announces 2024 reelection bid: 'Let's finish this job'



President Joe Biden departs after speaking at the North America's Building Trades Union National Legislative Conference at the Washington Hilton in Washington, Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

Associated Press

Important Notice

The Aruba Today Newspaper announces that due to the official King's Day Holiday, we will not be in circulation Thursday, April, 27. We will be back on newsstands everywhere bright and early to serve our readers and advertisers first thing in the morning, Friday, April 28. Until then, paint the town Orange and enjoy King's Day on Aruba, from the team at the Aruba Today Newspaper, Aruba's ONLY English Newspaper!















More sanctions for deadly fentanyl if bill becomes law

By FATIMA HUSSEIN **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the past year, the U.S. Treasury Department has used its sanctions powers to impose wide-ranging financial penalties on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine — turning Russia into the most sanctioned country in the world.

Now, the federal agency is facing increasing pressure, including from legislation introduced Tuesday in the Senate, to use those tools with similar vigor against the people, financial institutions and companies that have participated in the explosion of fentanyl use and distribution in the U.S.

"As a matter of policy we are dealing with drug carwho have tremen-

dous economic gain to be which is tasked with commade," said Paul DelPonte, executive director of the nonprofit National Crime Prevention Council, which is pushing for tougher action against those behind the scourge of drug overdose and death. "There are a lot of hands involved in this crime."

Fentanyl is the deadliest drug in the U.S. today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 71,000 people died from overdosing on synthetic opioids such as fentanyl in 2021, up from almost 58,000 in 2020.

Mexico and China are the primary source countries for fentanyl and fentanylrelated substances trafficked directly into the U.S., according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, bating illicit drug trafficking. Nearly all the precursor chemicals that are needed to make fentanyl are coming from China.

Growing tensions between the U.S. and China on multiple fronts have made efforts to stop the importation of illicit fentanyl more difficult, a Congressional Research Service report states. China officially suspended its counternarcotic and law enforcement cooperation with the U.S. last August.

Treasury hasn't been idle. The department has imposed sanctions on fentanyl producers and traffickers in recent years — and as recently as this month issued a set of sanctions on a group of Mexican and Chinese fentanyl distribu-



The Treasury Building is viewed in Washington, May 4, 2021. **Associated Press**

tors. But with the number of overdose deaths exploding in recent years, there are calls for more action, including a national emergency declaration similar to the one at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Such a declaration could lead to tougher sanctions, DelPonte said.

"It would empower the CDC to collaborate with people at Treasury, for instance, to save some very young innocent people."

Lawmakers are making a bipartisan effort to get that declaration, with legislation sponsored by the leaders and ranking members of the Senate Banking and Armed Services Committees that was introduced Tuesday. That bill would compel the Biden administration to prioritize the fight against fentanyl trafficking and prod Treasury to use its sanctions authority to quell the proliferation of the drug in the U.S.

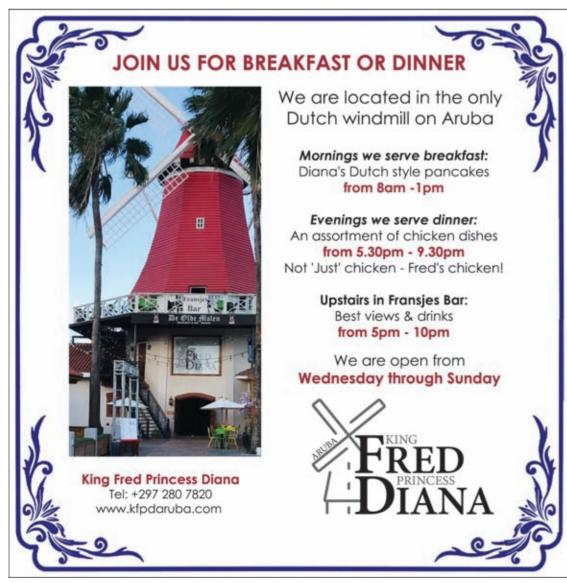
Declaring international fentanyl trafficking a national emergency, the legislation would require Treasury to sanction drug cartels It also would impose reporting requirements and enable the president to confiscate sanctioned property of fentanyl traffickers to use for law enforcement efforts.

"This legislation takes de-

cisive action to cut off the deadly flow of fentanyl at the source," said Sen Tim Scott of South Carolina, the ranking Republican on the Banking Committee and a potential GOP presidential candidate.

Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said he hears "over and over that we need new, more powerful tools to prevent the flow of fentanyl into our neighborhoods." Fentanyl was involved in 81% of 2020 overdose deaths in Ohio, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

"This bipartisan bill will add effective new sanctions to target the illicit fentanyl supply chain, from China through Mexico, to help stop increasingly dangerous forms of this drug before they ever reach our communities," Brown said. In his February State of the Union address, President Joe Biden outlined how his administration would crack down on trafficking. Since then, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has conducted historically large seizure operations, and Treasury and the Justice Department have sanctioned and charged Mexican Sinaloa cartel members that use Chinese precursor chemicals to produce fentanyl.





Biden announces 2024 reelection bid: 'Let's finish this job'

From Front

By ZEKE MILLER **AP White House Correspondent WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden on Tuesday formally announced that he is running for reelection in 2024, asking voters to give him more time to "finish this job" and extend the run of America's oldest president for another four years. Biden, who would be 86 at the end of a second term, is betting his first-term legislative achievements and more than 50 years of experience in Washington will count for more than concerns over his age. He faces a smooth path to winning his party's nomination, with no serious Democratic challengers. But he's still set for a hard-fought struggle to retain the presidency in a bitterly divided nation. In his first public appearance Tuesday since the announcement, Biden offered a preview of how he plans to navigate the dual roles of president and presidential candidate, using a speech to building trades union members to highlight his accomplishments and undercut his GOP rivals, while showing voters he remained focused on his day job. Greeted by a raucous crowd of building trades union members — a key base of Democratic support — with "Let's Go Joe" chants, Biden touted the tens of thousands of construction jobs being created since he took office that are supported by the legislation he signed into law.

The official announcement, in a three-minute video, comes on the four-year anniversary of when Biden declared for the White House in 2019, promising to heal the "soul of the nation" amid the turbulent presidency of Donald Trump — a goal that has remained elusive.

"I said we are in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are," Biden said. "The question we are facing is whether in the years ahead we have more freedom or less freedom. More rights or fewer."

While the prospect of seek-

ing reelection has been a given for most modern presidents, that's not always been the case for Biden. A notable swath of Democratic voters have indicated they would prefer he not run, in part because of his age — concerns Biden has called "totally legitimate" but ones he did not address head-on in the launch video. Yet few things have unified Democratic voters like the prospect of Trump returning to power. And Biden's political standing within his party stabilized after Democrats notched a stronger-thanexpected performance in last year's midterm elections. The president is set to run again on the same themes that buoyed his party last fall, particularly on preserving access to abortion. "Freedom. Personal freedom is fundamental to who we are as Americans. There's nothing more important. Nothing more sacred," Biden said in the launch video, depicting Republican extremists as trying to roll back access to abortion, cut Social Security, limit voting rights and ban books they disagree with. "Around the country, MAGA extremists are lining up to take those bedrock freedoms away." "This is not a time to be complacent," Biden added. "That's why I'm running

for reelection." As the contours of the campaign begin to take shape, Biden plans to campaign on his record. He spent his first two years as president combating the coronavirus pandemic and pushing through major bills such as the bipartisan infrastructure package and legislation to promote high-tech manufacturing and climate measures. With Republicans now in control of the House, Biden has shifted his focus to implementing those massive laws and making sure voters credit him for the improvements. The president also has multiple policy goals and unmet promises from his first campaign that he's asking voters on giving him another chance to fulfill.

"Let's finish this job. I know we can," Biden said in the video, repeating a mantra he said a dozen times during his State of the Union address in February, listing everything from passing a ban on assault-style weapons and lowering the cost of prescription drugs to codifying a national right to abortion after the Supreme Court's ruling last year overturning Roe v. Wade.

Buoyed by the midterm results, Biden plans to continue to cast all Republicans as embracing what he calls "ultra-MAGA" politics— a reference to Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan—regardless of whether his predecessor ends up on the 2024 ballot. In the video, Biden speaks over brief clips and photo-



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden walk from the Oval Office to attend a ceremony honoring the Council of Chief State School Officers' 2023 Teachers of the Year in the Rose Garden of the White House, Monday, April 24, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

graphs of key moments in his presidency, snapshots of diverse Americans and flashes of outspoken Republican foes, including Trump, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, and Rep. Marjorie

Taylor Greene of Georgia. He exhorts supporters that "this is our moment" to "defend democracy. Stand up for our personal freedoms. Stand up for the right to vote and our civil rights."



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Trial opens in E. Jean Carroll's rape lawsuit against Trump

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and **JENNIFER PELTZ**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A former advice columnist's nearly 30-year-old rape claim against Donald Trump went to trial Tuesday as jurors in the federal civil case heard her allegation of being attacked in a luxury department store dressing room. The former president says nothing happened between them.

E. Jean Carroll will testify that the assault that happened in a few minutes in a fitting room in 1996 "would change her life forever," one of her lawyers, Shawn Crowley, said in an opening statement.

"Filled with fear and shame, she kept silent for decades. Eventually, though, silence impossible," became Crowley said. And when Carroll broke that silence in a 2019 memoir, the thenpresident "used the most powerful platform on Earth to lie about what he had done, attack Ms. Carroll's integrity and insult her appearance."

Trump wasn't in court, and his lawyers haven't yet previewed their case for the



Former advice columnist E. Jean Carroll walks into Manhattan federal court on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

six-man, three-woman jury. The trial stands to tests Trump's "Teflon Don" reputation for shaking off serious legal problems and to reprise accounts of the type of sexual misconduct that rocked his 2016 presidential campaign as he seeks office again. He denies Carroll's claim and all the others, saying they were falsehoods spun up to damage

The trial is in civil court, meaning that no matter the outcome, Trump isn't in danger of going to jail. He isn't required to be in court, either, and his lawyers have indicated he most likely won't testify.

The trial comes a month after he pleaded not guilty in an unrelated criminal case surrounding payments made to bury accounts of alleged extramarital sex.

Jurors whose names are being kept secret to prevent potential harassment range in age from 26 to 66 and include a janitor, a physical therapist and people who work in security, health care collections, a library, a high school and other settings.

One said she follows news by watching "everything"; another said he didn't follow it at all.

They were questioned about their news-watching habits, political donations and support for any of a roster of right- and left-wing groups. They were asked, too, whether they used Trump's social media platform, read Carroll's former Elle magazine column and even if they'd seen Trump's former reality show "The Apprentice" and whether any of these and other matters would make it difficult for them to be fair.

Carroll is expected to testify that a chance encounter with Trump turned violent, and that he defamed her when responding to the rape allegations. She's seeking unspecified damages and a retraction.

She says that after she ran into the future president at Manhattan's Beradorf Goodman on a spring evening in 1996, he invited her to shop with him for a woman's lingerie gift before they teased one another to try on a garment. Carroll says they ended up alone together in a store dressing room, where Trump pushed her against a wall and raped before she fought him off and fled.

Alabama and Mississippi mark Confederate Memorial Day

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) Alabama and Mississippi closed most government offices Monday for Confederate Memorial Day as

efforts have stalled to abol-

ish state holidays that honor the old Confederacy. Legislation has been introduced in the ongoing Alabama legislative session to

remove, alter or rename

The Mississippi state and U.S. flags fly near the Rankin County Confederate Monument in the downtown square of Brandon, Miss., on March 3, 2023.

Associated Press

Confederate-related holidays, but the effort has so far gained little traction.

Camille Bennett, the founder of Project Say Something, an organization that has worked for the removal of Confederate monuments in Alabama, said the determination to keep Confederate holidays comes at the same time Alabama lawmakers push legislation banning so called "divisive concepts" from being taught in state classrooms and diversity training state workers.

"On one side, you have white conservative men defining what divisive is and what it means. ... At the same time, you are honoring the Confederacy, which in itself is a divisive

concept. It's really hypocritical, quite tone deaf," Bennett said.

An Alabama Senate committee last week rejected a proposal to separate the joint state holiday celebrating Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and slain civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the same day.

"We're trying to separate the holidays of two men whose ideologies were toend of the totem pole to

One believed in justice and fairness for all, and another believed in slavery," state Sen. Vivian Davis Figures said.

Figures' bill would have kept Lee's holiday but moved it to Columbus Day in October. "Whoever wants to honor either man will have their own day," she said.

The vote split along racial lines, Figures said at the end of the meeting, with white Republicans voting against it and Black Democrats voting for it.

Several Southern states have ended or renamed Confederate holidays. Louisiana in 2022 removed Robtally separate, from one ert E. Lee Day and Confederate Memorial Day trom the list of state holidays. Georgia in 2015 renamed Confederate Day to "State Holiday." Arkansas in 2017 ended the practice of commemorating Lee and King on the same day.



Big Tech crackdown looms as EU, UK ready new rules

By KELVIN CHAN **AP Business Writer**

LONDON (AP) — TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, Google, and Amazon are facing rising pressure from European authorities as London and Brussels advanced new rules Tuesday to curb the power of digital compa-

They're among those on a list of the 19 biggest online platforms and search engines that the European Union's executive arm said must meet extra obligations for cleaning up illegal content and disinformation and keeping users safe under the 27-nation bloc's landmark digital rules that take effect later this year.

The U.K. government, meanwhile, unveiled draft legislation that would give regulators more power to protect consumers from online scams and fake reviews and boost digital competition.

The updates help solidify Europe's reputation as the global leader in efforts to rein in the power of social media companies and other digital platforms.

TikTok will allow European Commission officials to carry out a "stress test" of its systems to ensure they comply with the Digital Services Act, Commissioner



A worker helps set up the Google booth before CES International, in Las Vegas, USA, on Jan. 4,

line briefing.

He proposed the idea to TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew when they met in Brussels earlier this year.

"I'm happy that they came back to us saying they are interested," Breton said, but added that he's waiting for Chew to provide a date. TikTok did not reply to a request for comment.

Twitter had agreed earlier to a stress test, and Breton said he and his team will travel to the company's headquarters in San Francisco at the end of June

Thierry Breton said in an on- to carry out the voluntary mock exercise. Breton didn't detail what the test would entail.

> Starting Aug. 25, the biggest online platforms will have to give European users more control by making it easier to report illegal content like hate speech and providing more information on why their systems recommend certain content.

> There are guardrails for content generated by artificial intelligence like deepfake videos and synthetic images, which will have to

be clearly labeled when they come up in search results, Breton said.

Associated Press

Platforms will have to "completely redesign" their systems to ensure high a level of privacy and safety for children, including verifying users' ages, Breton said.

Big Tech companies also will have to revamp their systems to "prevent algorithmic amplification of disinformation," he said, saying he was particularly concerned about Facebook's content moderation systems ahead of September elections in Slovakia.

"Now that Facebook has been designated as a very large online platform, Meta needs to carefully investigate its system and fix it where needed ASAP," he

Facebook's parent company said it supports the EU's new Digital Services Act.

"We are already taking extensive steps to ensure we meet the DSA's requirements, including expanding and evolving our existing transparency tools and reporting systems," Meta said. Violations could result in fines worth up to 6% of a company's annual global revenue amounting to billions of dollars or even a ban on operating in the EU. The European Commission's list of very large online platforms is limited to those with at least 45 million users in Europe, which includes Google's Search, Play, Maps, Shopping and YouTube services; Amazon Marketplace; Apple's App Store; Microsoft's Bing and LinkedIn; Meta's Facebook and Instagram; plus Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter, Wikipedia, Booking.com, China's Alibaba Aliexpress and German ecommerce company Zalando.

Spain pleads for EU crisis funds as drought hits farmers

By JENNIFER O'MAHONY are high temperatures, territory is classified as in and SERGIO RODRIGO **Associated Press**

MADRID (AP) — Spain is requesting emergency funds from the European Union to support farmers and ranchers amid extreme drought conditions in its agricultural heartlands, Agriculture Minister Luis Planas said Tuesday. Planas wrote to the European Commission-Wojciechowski, on Monday 890,000 farm workers, including from the bloc's agricultural crisis reserve and unused rural development funds, he said.

but they are much more accentuated in the case of the Iberian Peninsula," Planas added following a cabinet meeting, describing the release urgent financial assistance as of "the utmost importance." Spain already received 64.5 million euros (\$70 million) last year from the EU Common Agricultural Poler tor Agriculture, Janusz icy's crisis reserve to cope with the increased cost of to plead for aid for Spain's raw materials linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but five consecutive years of drought in some regions have worsened an already difficult situation.

"There is drought, there Currently, 27% of Spanish

drought "emergency" or "alert," according to the **Ecological Transition minis**try, and water reserves are at 50% of capacity nationally. In Spain's most important agricultural region, Andalusia, the situation is far worse. The Guadalquivir river basin is at 24.8% of its capacity, and farmers in the region have had their water allowance tor irrigation cut by up to 90% in some cases. Spain is the world's biggest exporter of olive oil, and an important producer of fruits and vegetables. The drought has already driven up Spanish olive oil prices to record

levels. The agriculture minister said he had also asked the EU to provide a higher advance payment ahead of the next season, and urged "flexibility" in meeting the strict requirements of the bloc's agricultural policy. The government also announced a 1.8-billion-euro tax cut for affected farmers.



View of the Sau reservoir about 100 km (62 miles) north of

Associated Press



Dutch leader pledges to repay debt to quake-hit region

By MIKE CORDER **Associated Press**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte apologized Tuesday to residents of the northern province of Groningen who have suffered for years from earthquakes caused by gas extraction that damaged thousands of homes and ruined lives. Rutte's apology and a pledge to fund a generation-long program to revitalize the remote region came as his government published its official reaction to a damning parliamentary commission report issued in February that said the government owed the Groningen region a "debt of honor" after putting gas profits before people for decades.

"We stand here, cap in hand," Rutte told residents in the northern village of Garmerwolde. "We can't take away all the suffering from the past. We can't undo what has gone wrong since gas extraction started. But we are determined to do things differently, working closely with the people here. And that means a commitment of years, an approach for an entire generation."



Netherland's Prime Minister Mark Rutte speaks with the media as he arrives for an EU summit at the European Council building in Brussels Brussels on Feb. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

The government pledged to end all gas extraction which has already been scaled back to almost nothing by October, or by 2024 at the latest. It also said it will spend at least 22 billion euros (\$24.25 billion) on paying for repairs to homes and infrastructure and to "invest in the longterm economic perspective" of the region.

Groningen has for years

been a hotbed of discontent fueled by the earthquakes and faltering government attempts to compensate residents. Local authorities in the region called the package "a step in the right direction," but in a written statement said they doubt if it would be enough to solve problems with damage repair and strengthening" of buildings. "It is certainly not enough

to repay the 'debt of honor' that has arisen in decades of gas extraction," they said. A consortium including energy giants Shell and ExxonMobil extracted gas from the huge Groningen underground reserves for decades before the government took a decision in 2018 to gradually stop pumping gas out of the Groningen field one of the world's largest at 2,800

billion cubic meters.

The parliamentary inquiry said the huge profits over the years the Dutch state earned 363 billion euros from Groningen gas blinded successive governments to the plight of people in the region.

"The interests of the people of Groningen have been structurally ignored in natural aas extraction in Groningen, with disastrous consequences for the people of Groningen," the commission responsible for the report said in a statement in February.

A court in The Hague on Tuesday called a temporary halt to plans by a Dutch company, ONE-Dyas, to develop a new gas field under Dutch and German waters close to the German island of Borkum.

German environmentalists welcomed the ruling by a iudae in The Hague in challenges to the Dutch government's decision to grant permission for the project. Sascha Mueller-Kraenner, chief executive of the German environmental aroup DUH, that along with other groups filed the legal challenges, called it "an important step for the protection of the North Sea."

Venezuelan Guaidó denounces being expelled from Colombia

By REGINA GARCIA CANO **Associated Press** CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó said he was expelled from

Colombia hours after he crossed the border from Venezuela to try to meet with some participants at an international conference Tuesday to discuss his



Opposition leader Juan Guaido speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, Feb. 10,

Associated Press

country's political crisis. In a video posted on Twitter, Guaidó said he entered

Colombia trying to escape Venezuelan government persecution, but that now he also felt he was being persecuted by President's Nicolás Maduro in Colom-

Colombia's Foreign Ministry said late Monday in a press release that Guaidó was "irregularly" in the country so immigration authorities escorted him to the international airport to take plane bound to the U.S. "The persecution of the

dictatorship unfortunately spread to Colombia today," Guaidó said on the video from inside an airplane. He added that he was on a commercial flight

to the U.S and that he would say more on Wednesday.

After the re-election of Maduro in 2018 was deemed a sham by dozens of countries, Guaidó declared himself Venezuela's interim president in 2019. However, his popularity has waned since then and opposition lawmakers voted in January to strip him of that role and instead appoint a committee to run what they call their "interim government." Tuesday's international conference with delegates apparently organized by Colombian would happen on the side-President Gustavo Petro lines of Tuesday's conferis meant to jumpstart official dialogue between the government of Maduro and his adversaries. The formal negotiations between both sides guided by Nor-

wegian diplomats and hosted by Mexico stalled at the end of last year. "I will be requesting meetings with members of the international delegations," Guaidó had said in a statement. He said he hoped the meeting would "ensure that the Maduro regime returns to the negotiating table in Mexico and agrees to a credible timetable for free and fair elections to solve the current situation." Any of Guaidó's meetings ence. Colombia's Foreign Minister Álvaro Leyva issued a statement saying that Guaidó was not invited to the conference, and was not expected to attend.







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"Downtown Goes Orange" in connection with the celebration of King's Day

conference, Mary-Ann Falconi, General Manager of Impact Hub Aruba, together with Mr. Ivan Diaz, announced the event "Downtown Goes Orange which takes place on April 27th in connection with the celebration of King's Day.

Falconi explained that once again, with partners in the Weststraat shopping area, they are organizing another event with the purpose revitalizing downtown Oranjestad.

"Downtown Reinvented," Falconi says, is an initiative

On April 18 during a press where partners work volunventa", with homeowners tarily, with a purpose larger than themselves, which contributes to the revitalization of downtown Oranhopeful that not only here, but also other areas of Oranjestad can join in the initiative. This way we can come up with a lasting solution for this initiative," she said.

> She remembers when in November last year, the was the "Downtown Food & Art Festival", which was the first edition of the initiative for "Downtown Rein-

in the Weststraat comina together to bring a solution for Weststraat and through this, stimulate commerce jestad as a whole. "We are and community through art and experience.

> On April 27th, Impact Hub, along with its partners, are going to hold the event 'Downtown Goes Orange'. This event, Falconi further explained, is the first in the series of events that will be organizina regularly—ideally each month—so that they can bring sustainable changes in the Weststraat



During the event, there are going to be different kiosk stands with handcrafted art, different products, food, and different pop-up restaurants to help contribute to the phenomenal atmosphere of King's Day.

Ivan Diaz, partner of Impact Hub Aruba, explained that there are going to be many musical acts as well, like DJ Caleto, the musical band Acustica and a new artist who will be making his debut at the event.

Finally, Falconi and Diaz have extended an invitation to the people and visitors of Aruba to pass by Weststraat in Down Town Oranjestad, starting from 7pm. Entrance is completely free, as to help with the initiative to revitalize the commercial area of Weststraat.

Aruba celebrates King's Day

(Oranjestad)-King Willem-Alexander's birthday will be celebrated on April 27th and this means that Thursday is a public holiday. There will be festivities all-over the island: flea markets, restaurant specials and you may see an abundance of the color orange, referring to the color of the Dutch Royal Family, which hails from the House of Orange.

The colors of the official Dutch flag are red, white, and blue. On royal birthdays, the Dutch tricolor is flown with an orange pennant above it. Each year on April 27, Amsterdam — and indeed the entire country — turns orange and because Aruba is part of the Dutch Kingdom, we celebrate along. Aruba is one of the four autonomous countries that make up the Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with Curacao and St. Maarten and of course, the Netherlands itself.

Willem-Alexander

King Willem-Alexander is the head of state of Aruba and the governor represents the monarch in Aruba. Willem-Alexander is the son of Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus. He was first in the line of succession since his mother's accession to the throne on April 30, 1980. he also bore the title of Prince of Orange. Willem-Alexander married Argentineborn Máxima Zorreguieta (thereafter Princess Máxima) in Amsterdam. On April 30, 2013, Beatrix stepped down, and Willem-Alexander was inaugurated as king



of the Netherlands. The couple has three daughters: Catharina-Amalia, Princess of Orange and first in line to the throne, Princess Alexia of the Netherlands and Princess Ariane of the Netherlands.

Let's Celebrate!

There will be numerous sporting events and family-friendly celebrations coming Thursday. Sports competitions, kite flying contests and fun-filled activities are held at various sites including community centers. There will be flea markets and various activities for children during the day in the parking lot of the supermarket Superfood Plaza from 8am to 2pm and Musical performances at Café the Plaza at Renaissance Marketplace from 12pm to 7pm. The King's Day Dance and Trance Party will start at 7pm at Surfside Beach Bar.

The celebration will continue on the 28th of April with lighted kite flying, starting from 6pm to 12am at the Pepsi Field in San Nicolas. Don't miss these great activities and enjoy your orange fest!



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Guus Weltings and Piet van Oosterhout prepare to run marathon to raise funding for Trampolin pa Trabou

(Oranjestad)—On May 12th, the 31st edition of the 'Ronde van Aruba' marathon will take place. **Guus Weltings and Piet van** Oosterhout are preparing for their participation in this big event to raise funding for the 'Trampolin pa Trabou' Foundation. In a interview with ArubaToday, they talked about their goals and what led them to participate in this marathon.

Guus Weltings works and an account manager at The Lab marketing agency and Piet van Oosterhout is a primary school teacher at De Schakel. Joey van Leeuwen, their driver throughout this event currently works at the Marine Corps in the Savaneta district.

Both Weltings and van Leeuwen's partners are primary school teachers at De Schakel and this is how they met. The men have also played soccer together for the team S.V. Mercurius Aruba.

They explained that the focus for this initiative was to raise funding for the Trampolin pa Trabou Founda-

Both Weltings and Oosterhout were already planning on participating in the marathon, with van

Leeuwen as their driver, for a while, but they wanted their participating to go to something.

"We found our reason to do the marathon when we started talking about raising funds for a local foundation, Weltings indicated.

They chose Trampolin pa Trabou, because Oosterhout has a sibling with disabilities living in The Netherlands. People with disabilities have a lesser chance in getting a job in the labor market, and in Aruba, that chance is even slimmer. For this reason, they decided to give all their proceeds to the foundation as to help them raise awareness and more resources to keep helping people with disabilities.

According to them, the foundation will be using the money raised to improve their facility. They will be renovating a container unit so that they can keep auiding and training their clients. Besides this, they need tables, chairs, air conditioning and more.

Besides the renovation, tion, a foundation that there are other facilities supports people with dis- that need to be improved. abilities and help give them Some of these include the more opportunities within roof of a veranda that is the labor market on Aruba. almost completely wasted away, but also the professional kitchen that the foundation uses to cook

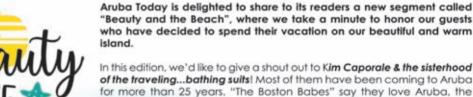


casinoalhambra.com



"The foundation doesn't get much subsidy for the work they do, so they really need all the help they can get," Weltings stated.

For more information on how to donate or other matters, visit the Facebook page "Down the Road Aruba" or their website, www. downtheroadaruba.com













Article by Etnia Nativa

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The Arashi Shell Midden II

Stay in touch with the "Island-Insight" revelations regarding native Aruban ethnic heritage, upholding the island's cultural identity in each of the weekly episodes, sharing awareness and education, and encouraging each reader to experience a true island state of mind.

If you have visited the Arashi area, you have probably seen a sign that mentions that the area in question has great cultural value for the Aruban native community and is a "protected area". In our last episode (The Arashi Shell Midden I), we began to explain the importance of this area where there are ancient rubbish dumps, which we refer to as middens, which is an old English word used for domestic garbage dumps, and this is the meaning used by archaeologists and related science since garbage deposits are one of the most common types of archaeological sites found in Aruba. Dumpsters may be of Paleolithic, Caquetio, or European origin and are places where food remains, such as shellfish and animal bones, ashes and charcoal from fires, and broken or worn tools, were dumped, thrown away, or buried.

But how do you recognize a shell Midden? While they can be found almost anywhere in coastal Aruba and are usually made up of layers of shell and bone mixed with charcoal, ash, and burnt stone, as we have mentioned, they can be seen as low mounds and heaps or as eroding sandy shores. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish shell middens from natural heaps or layers of shells along the coast. Close inspection will usually reveal charcoal, shells, blackened soil, or burnt stone that show that the site was formed by people rather than natural processes.

Middens are important because, through them, we can learn about "dating the past," and archaeologists



Episode 203 - CCIII



are able to recover charcoal, bones, or shells that can be analyzed using radiocarbon dating techniques to provide age estimates for when sites were occupied. Sometimes, by comparing archaeological specimens with modern samples, it is possible to establish what season of the year a site was occupied.

Studying the contents of middens can show where people went to get their food, what proportions of different foods made up their diet, its nutritional quality, and how it may have changed in different seasons or over long periods of time. For example, the study of middens in Aruba has shown that early Paleolithic men concentrated their hunting on possibly manatees and monk seals, which were rich in protein and fat, but later on, as these resources became scarce, they increased their fishing activities for shellfish and sea turtles, supplemented by birds, rabbits, iguanas, and island deer, to maintain their diet.

It is mainly from the study of the middens and their locations that we learn of the many animal and plant species that once existed on the island but are now extinct. Charcoal, seeds, and land snails from middens may also allow the reconstruction of past vegetation patterns.

Oral history, traditional accounts, and historical records tend to focus on important people and important events. Sometimes they show how people wanted things to be, not how they actually

were. These accounts and records often contain very little information about the daily lives of ordinary people. Archaeological studies of garbage dumps can help restore balance by allowing us to discover what people collected, consumed, made, and eventually disposed of during the course of their daily lives. For all this, the conservation of the archaeological heritage is very important. Now, if you're intrigued by Aruba's origins and cultural heritage, do something off the tourist grid and visit Etnia Nativa, a private residential museum where you can be touched by the island's authentic heritage and live out the native effect between exhibits of archaeological art, archaic artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and historical items.

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, who is also a native artist and island Piache who guides each visitor through his resplendent collections. His museum/home is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural legacy and his colonial family's heritage dating back to 1640, when the Dutch occupation began. Meet him and enjoy a genuine contemporary Native Aruba experience!

Appointment is required + 297 592 2702 or etnianativa03@amail.com.





Today we celebrate Padu del Caribe!

(Oranjestad)—On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad and has become one of the most beloved figures in the history of Aruba

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994.

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became re-



nowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs).

He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

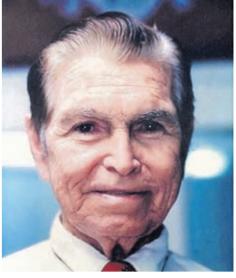
In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several painting using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamento on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam



on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tow-

er was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts

dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC. In the late 1980's, AMA

identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

approximately 1.700 m2. In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soonto-be exhibition space. In



December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the

island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba.□



CROSSWORD CAR By THOMAS JOSEPH SPANISHMA DOWN **ACROSS** TAB THY NEG ACNE I L I I C A 1 Wanes 1 Poet DIEICIÓIRI 5 Try to win Pound 11 Enthusi-2 Yellow-PERMS asm stone 12 Shrewd animal IDO HIS 13 Risqué 3 Start of POUR INGRAIN 14 Right INSET OUNCE a golf away NEEDS TIOIEIS stroke 15 Bible boat Yesterday's answer 4 Crafty 16 Singer 5 Mist **19** Some 33 Wharves Baez 6 Lebanon offensive 34 Reach 17 Left over neighbor 19 Used to be 7 School players across 20 Open 36 Fancy 22 Loser to on the space flower Truman Thames 21 Glimpsed 37 Budget 24 River 8 Merriment 22 Band amount through 9 Mel of the sample 38 Can. Nantes Giants 23 Midterm, neighbor 26 Way to go 10 Old for one 39 Price 27 Pants auto 25 Gumbo setting part 16 Crested 40 Bullfight veggie 28 "Olympia" 29 Casual top cheer bird painter 18 Singer 30 Uncon-41 Nile 30 Heart, Seeger scious serpent for one 31 Texting letters of 12 shock 13 **32** Young pigeon 34 Close 35 Vacuum's lack 22 23 24 25 38 Perfect 26 place 41 Realty unit 42 Job ad datum 36 43 Tattoo site 44 FBI em-42 ployees 45 "You there!" 4-26 AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-26 CRYPTOQUOTE

BV NBS GSVZ FSP RFGVQZPWFG

ISRQ ZXUVETV NXUU MQSCWCUI

FSP REGVOZPWEG ISRQ NSQGZ.

— VUCVQP BRCCWQG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: CHOCOLATE COMES FROM COCOA, WHICH IS A TREE, THAT MAKES IT A PLANT, CHOCOLATE IS SALAD, — ANONYMOUS



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

Kimberly Palmer: How to bolster your financial confidence

By KIMBERLY PALMER of **NerdWallet**

Melinda Perez, a financial educator, still remembers the first time she felt financially confident. She had recently started investina money outside of her employer-sponsored retirement account because she was finally earning more than she spent. "It was exciting because for once, I had what felt like extra money," recalls Perez, who lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Financial confidence, or the belief in one's moneyrelated abilities, might not come up as much as financial literacy especially in April, Financial Literacy Month but money experts say it's often the hidden ingredient behind savvy money decisions. "If there's no financial confidence, there is no willpower to succeed. We translate that to financial self-efficacy," savs Perez, who also studies financial confidence as part of her research as a doctoral candidate in organizational leadership.

But confidence with money can be hard to come by. According to a Nerd-Wallet survey in January, three quarters of Americans say they do not feel confident about their personal finances for 2023, and many of them cite the uncertain U.S. economy.

There are, however, ways to boost your financial confidence. Here's how to

aet started: SEEK FINANCIAL EDUCA-TION

Learning essential lessons around budgeting, saving and investing helps boost financial literacy, Perez says, which can positively impact actions. "To increase financial confidence, we need to increase education, so you know what tools you need," she adds. Those seeking financial education should start with local organizations and community groups that provide information for free, she adds. Finding financial literacy-focused groups on Facebook or searching "financial education resources" for your area can lead to helpful resources. The U.S. government's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency also offers a helpful Financial Literacy Resource Directory.

"Find your community that talks about finances in a nonjudgmental way," so you have a safe place to ask questions — that community might include friends and social media groups, Perez says.

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Chita Rivera introduces us to her alter ego in new memoir

By LESLIE AMBRIZ **Associated Press**

It's hard to imagine Anita, Rose Alvarez and Velma Kelly without Chita Rivera, who first breathed life into these beloved Broadway characters.

At a time when there was limited Latino representation on stage, this young woman of Puerto Rican, Scottish and Irish descent was taking Broadway by storm and ensuring everyone knew her name.

The dancer-turned-Broadway legend reminisces in her new book, "Chita: A Memoir." Written with arts journalist Patrick Pacheco, it's an inside look at Rivera's journey from a spunky girl jumping on furniture in her family's Washington, D.C., home to a professional dancer and then a threetime Tony Award-winning performer.

Each chapter feels like a personal diary entry as Rivera, now 90, also talks about motherhood, and loves lost and found.

"It was the next stage for me to write it down. And it was God's way of reminding me this is the life I had or have. I got so busy that I didn't remember that I had a wonderful, wonderful life," she told the Associated Press.

While Rivera is the memoir's main character, another ing all the glory, you know.



Chita Rivera arrives at the 72nd annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall on June 10, 2018, in New York. On Tuesday Rivera released "Chita: A Memoir," written with Patrick Pacheco.

Associated Press

woman steals scene after scene: her self-proclaimed alter ego, Dolores. Dolores is unapologetic and fiery. She is the unfiltered version of Chita and serves as motivation in times of selfdoubt. In one chapter, Rivera writes that she doesn't read reviews "or Dolores just might invest in a dozen voodoo dolls."

"I consist of and I think we all do I consist of two people: Dolores and Conchita," said Rivera with a chuckle. "Conchita, she's the one that has been tak-

She's been doing all the shows, but Dolores is the one that's pushed her into it. And she's been keeping me on track, so I listen to Dolores. I listen to her. She's growing in my head now as we speak."

Rivera was born Dolores Conchita Figueroa del Rivero. Friends knew her as Chita, but it wasn't until someone recommended that she shorten her name to fit on a show poster that she became Chita Rivera. It was a name that she felt respected her heritage.

"If I was going to lose some

parts because directors or agents thought my name sounded too south of the border, well, that was their problem," she writes in the memoir.

Rivera dedicates a chapter to the late Sammy Davis Jr., whom she met while working on the Broadway musical "Mr. Wonderful" early in her career. She talks about their romantic relationship, and the legendary rat pack member's inner struggles. Rivera says she decided to go into more detail about their relationship because "it was time to," and she

wanted readers to know her and Sammy better.

"He was an extraordinary human being who had the same problems as everybody else, but he dealt with them in a different way. And I cherish the time that I had with Sammy because he was an amazing person," she said.

For Rivera, vulnerability in love isn't something to hide. "The loves of my life enabled me to explore myself even more," she said.

"And I always said, you know, we should have two lives, one to try out and one you're judged by. But we don't.

We have one life, and we have to live it as best we can," said Rivera.

Hers became that of a theatre icon, best known for her roles in "West Side Story" (Anita), "Bye Bye Birdie" (Rose) and "Chicago" (Velma). Accolades include a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009; Tony Awards, including one for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre; Kennedy Center Honors and more, filling up pages and pages at the end of her memoir. She also appeared in film and on television.

Her book includes memories of other Broadway legends like Fred Ebb, John Kander, Liza Minnelli, Leonard Bernstein and more.

Melissa McCarthy fronts People magazine's 'Beautiful Issue'

By The Associated Press LOS ANGELES (AP) — Melissa McCarthy is out front on this year's People magazine "Beautiful Issue."

The "Bridesmaids" star says being on the cover "felt like it was saying something really lovely to my younger self, to my 20-year-old self. Maybe to other people, too."

People on Tuesday reissue that hits magazine do anything to you. It was just be kind," she says. racks on Friday.

McCarthy, 52, recounted for the magazine her upbringing on a farm in rural

through a punk phase, complete with a mohawk and blue hair, when she was in high school.

"I was fascinated because when I walked down the street and I looked like that, it was the first time that I'd ever had people kind of make fun of me or say really mean things to me, even adults," she told the magazine.

tion and the cover for the don't know me, I didn't a real big eye-opener that McCarthy stars as the sea people are just judging left witch Ursula in Disney's upand right."

Illinois and how she went until her 30s, when she met released in May.

husband and producing partner Ben Falcone, that she started feeling comfortable with herself. The couple, who have two teenage daughters together, have been married since 2005.

The actor said she wants others to find similar peace of mind.

"When someone's being their authentic self and vealed McCarthy's selec- "I just kept thinking, you it hurts no one else in the world... The simplest rule is

> coming live action "The Lit-McCarthy says it wasn't tle Mermaid," which will be



Melissa McCarthy appears at the world premiere of "The Kitchen" on Aug. 5, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



Is NFL hypocritical or hypervigilant in betting punishment?

By ARNIE STAPLETON and LARRY LAGE **AP Sports Writers**

Sixty years after Paul Hornung and Alex Karras were suspended a full season for wagering on football games, gambling is now as much a part of the NFL spectacle as mock drafts, tailgating and Super Bowl halftime shows.

The Raiders now play a dice roll from the Las Vegas Strip, and the Oakland Athletics of Major League Baseball just announced they've signed a binding agreement to purchase land for a ballpark close to Sin City's famous casinos.

Gambling is no longer a pariah but a massive moneymaker for the NFL, which has several lucrative sponsorships with online gambling sites and even a brickand-mortar sportsbook at one of its stadiums.

So, is it two-faced for the league that has so embraced legalized wagering to suspend some of its players for betting on football games and other sporting events from their phones constantly encouraged to



Detroit Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams warms up before the first half of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in Detroit.

Associated Press

said former Steelers and Bears quarterback Jim Miller. "You can't lie in bed with the devil, and not think you're going to get burned. "Soon, you'll be able to make bets in (most) NFL stadiums," Miller added. "That being said, the players are well aware of the like millions of NFL fans are rules. They have seminars and stuff up in the locker room to educate them."

"I think it's hypocritical," The NFL suspended five

players last week for violating the league's gambling policy. Lions receiver Quintez Cephus and safety C.J. Moore and Commanders defensive end Shaka Toney were suspended through at least the 2023 season for betting on NFL games last season. Lions receivers Stanley Berryhill and Jameson Williams were each suspended six games for betting from an NFL facility on non-NFL games.

"The NFL has always taken an aggressive approach with players and gambling," Miller said. "When I was in Chicago, (former commissioner) Paul Tagliabue came to town and told a teammate the league knew he was hanging out with a friend who owned a casino and told him he could not do that anymore."

That was before airwaves were inundated with commercials about wagering on fantasy football, actual final scores and even liveaction odds.

The Washington Commanders have a sportsbook inside FedEx Field, and the Jets, Giants and Cardinals all have sportsbooks just outside their venues. That number will soon grow because NFL owners voted at their annual meeting last month to allow teams to have sportsbooks inside stadiums in states where gambling is legal.

Thirty-three states have legalized gambling since a landmark Supreme Court ruling a few years back and that means 17 NFL teams will now be allowed to host on-line sportsbooks. The other 15 teams aren't fretting because revenue will be capped at a certain threshold beyond which all 32 teams will share in the profits. "The whole situation is a joke that the NFL and its teams profit off gambling, but players can't gamble," said former Bengals linebacker Larry Stevens. "It's also a joke how inconsistent the NFL is with suspensions. \square

Kraken lose Jared McCann to injury; won't play in Game 5

By TIM BOOTH **AP Sports Writer**

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Kraken lost leading scorer Jared McCann to an injury in the first period of Game 4 against Colorado on Monday night following a hit from Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar and he won't be available for Game 5.

Seattle coach Dave Hakstol said after the Kraken's 3-2 overtime victory that McCann would not play in Game 5 on Wednesday night and assumes he'll be out longer than that.

"Late hit. Really late. No puck in play. Our 40-goal scorer not available for the rest of the game," Hakstol said.

the ice for several minutes before being helped to

McCann was down on the bench and headed straight back to the Seattle locker room.



Seattle Kraken left wing Jared McCann (19) lies on ice after being hit by Colorado Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar during the first period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series Monday, April 24, 2023, in Seattle.

Associated Press

"When you see a guy go down like as a teammate it's frustrating and you want to do what you can for him," Seattle's Jaden Schwartz said.

short-handed attempt midway through the first period. The shot was saved by Colorado goalie Alexandar Georgiev and appeared to go into the netting behind the goal. McCann did not seem ready for the hit by Makar.

Makar said it was "unfortunate," and hoped McCann was OK.

"It was a hockey play. I'm assuming he was going to the corner because it was coming down. I didn't really look. Just unfortunate

how that happened," Makar said.

Makar was originally given a 5-minute major penalty but it was reduced to a 2-minute minor. Seattle McCann was hurt on a scored on the ensuing power play to take a 2-0

> Hakstol disagreed with the assessment by the officials that reduced the severity of the penalty.

> "I disagree with that, obviously, as I assessed it and looked at it live and for sure looking at it after on video," he said.

> McCann led Seattle with a career-high 40 goals and 70 points in the regular season. He had one assist in the first three games of the series.





Alcaraz goes for Spanish double, No. 1 spot at Madrid Open

By TALES AZZONI AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz gets another chance to defend a title at home in Spain, and move closer to regaining the No. 1 ranking. After winning in Barcelona for a second year in a row last week, the 19-year-old Alcaraz stayed in Spain to try to repeat as Madrid Open champion and practically guarantee a return to the top of the rankings.

Daniil Medvedev will be his top challenger at the clay-court tournament after the withdrawals of Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic because of injuries. Defending women's champion Ons Jabeur also won't play in Madrid this year because of an injury.

The second-ranked Alcaraz is chasing Djokovic for the No. 1 spot after having traded the top ranking with him three times this season. If he wins the title in Madrid,

Alcaraz would only need to play one match in Rome to be back at No. 1. The Spaniard can also get back to the top by playing at least one match in Madrid and

winning in Rome.

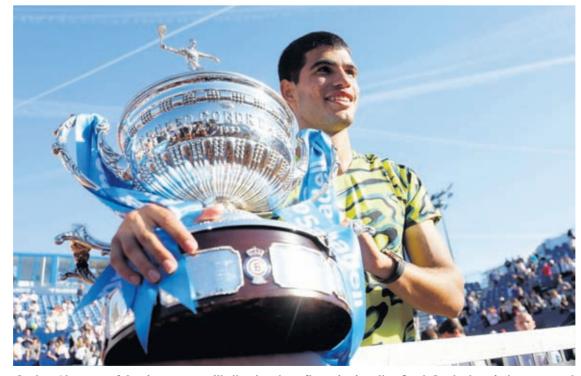
Alcaraz had never successfully defended a title until winning the Barcelona Open this year, which gave him his third title of the sea-

son and ninth overall in his impressive young career. He was the first player to repeat as Barcelona champion since Nadal won there three times in a row from

2016-18.

"I'm a bit tired after Barcelona, but the focus is already on this tournament (in Madrid)," Alcaraz said. "I've gained a lot of experience since my win here last year. I've grown both as a player and as a person. I'm still the same person, but maybe a bit more mature." Alcaraz beat both Nadal and Djokovic on his way to his Madrid title last year. He said playing at home did not add any extra pressure. "It's always motivating to have my family, friends and local fans supporting me," Alcaraz said. "I don't see it as pressure. It's a pleasure to be able to play in front of my people in Spain. It's different than anywhere else. It's a unique feeling."

Four other players have a chance to become No. 1 heading into the French Open, including Medvedev, who did not play in Madrid last year.



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, poses with the trophy after winning the final Godo tennis tournament against Stefanos Tsitsipas, of Greece, in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Associated Press